

measurement unit for measuring a voltage at both ends of the laser diode 1 and the abnormality detection unit for detecting an abnormality at the laser diode 1 based on an output of the voltage measurement unit.

However, the Examiner argues that Thronton et al. teach the voltage measurement unit and abnormality detection unit (citing Figs. 1 and 2, element 38).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In Thronton et al., while a voltage detector 38 is provided, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to include this voltage detector into the system depicted in the present application, Figure 11.

Specifically, the purpose of the voltage detection circuit 38 in the Thronton et al. device is to ensure that a relatively stable output power is emitted from front facet 16, while a notable fluctuation of output power is provided in rear facet 16 (see col. 7, line 60 - col. 8, line 2). There is no disclosure or suggestion of detecting *abnormality* as claimed in independent claims 1 and 2. Indeed, the reference to outputting a signal indicative of detected voltage which exceeds a reference voltage (see col. 5, lines 59-60) are to ensure that *optical medium 12* is reflecting at high and low reflectivity spots, which varies the threshold current and output intensity of the laser 14 (see col. 7, lines 33-47). Thus, the concept of abnormality detection of the laser itself is not taught or suggested by Thronton et al. Accordingly, the Thronton et al. disclosure would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to have included a voltage measuring unit and abnormality unit into Figure 11 of the present application.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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